The Southern PATRIOT

olume 5 | New Orleans, Louisiana, March, 1947 | No. 2

The Voice of Freedom

Nearly everybody knows about the eorgia students. How, late in January, ey took the effigy of Pretender Her- n Talmadge and hung it from the atue of Populist Tom Watson. The monstration of these 1200 students on e Capitol grounds in Atlanta roused e people of the South to combat the minent danger of Talmadge Fascism. ey inspired them with the example of ganized democratic opposition.

Other heartening examples of protest llowed immediately. Packed into the ditorium of the Atlanta Federation Women's Clubs, 1500 people heard lis Arnall's warning that representa- e government might be lost in Geor- . More than 1000 others stood out- de in the bitter cold and listened over loud speaker.

The first of many town meetings all er the state—held in churches, court- uses, homes and public squares—took ce in Barnesville, Lamar County. In e Decatur court house the people sum- oned their three state representatives demand a reckoning concerning their nd on the Talmadge issue.

By January 27th a delegated state- de meeting of the Aroused Citizens Georgia, representing more than 50 unties, met in Atlanta. Just a week er, on February 4th, Talmadge re- ved his first major setback in the islature, losing 90-89 a motion to him use the big seal of Georgia.

A few days later Judge Claude Porter Rome ruled that Talmadge's coup s illegal and that Thompson is the itimate governor of Georgia. Then lton County Circuit Judge Walter C. ndrix made an opposite ruling.

Meanwhile, popular sentiment has unted against the Talmadge-Harris called "white primary" bill. Four-day arings before the special Senate Ju- iary Committee brought forth stir- g demands for a free and all-inclu- e franchise from a varied list of tifiers which included Mrs. James H. ngstreet, widow of a famous Confed- erate General; Robert B. Hawkes, Savannah Agent of the National Maritime Union; Mrs. Leonard Haas, President, Georgia League of Women Voters; Mrs. H. H. Tortti, wife of the vice-president of *The Atlanta Constitution*—and 60 other leading citizens.

Two Negro Atlanta women college students, and two Negro representatives of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, were prevented from testifying because of their color.

The bravery of Rev. Joseph A. Raybun, Pastor of the McRae Baptist Church, challenged all religious leaders of Georgia to new determination. Dr. Raybun is pastor of Herman Talmadge's own church. He spoke out boldly against the Talmadge-Harris White Primary Bill. Eleven of his thirteen Deacons repudiated him. He countered by stating simply: "The real issue is not a white primary. It is democracy."

Also early in February, in New Orleans, there was dramatic proof that the issue of whether representative government shall continue in Georgia is not "a private fight." On that evening an organization of students and young working people, the New Orleans Youth Council, conducted a Town Hall Meeting at the Young Women's Christian Association "To Support Arnall Georgians and Protest Bilbo Louisianians."

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Young New Orleans went about its job in a thorough way. Inspired by the Georgia students, they put on a meeting, with only a few days' preparation and in the middle of the "exam" season, which packed the Y.W.C.A. Auditorium with nearly 500 people.

In addition to inviting trade union, church, professional and other groups, they took a sound truck around town two afternoons, telling the population as a whole about the necessity to speak up lest Fascism get its first open toehold in America by taking away from the people one of the 48 states.

Chaired by Theodore S. Behre, Secretary of the Pelican Ice Co. and a member of the Board of the SCHW Committee for Louisiana, the meeting heard addresses by James A. Dombrowski, SCHW Administrator; Catherine P. Labouisse, prominent New Orleans civic leader; William Sorum, President, New Orleans Youth Council; and Rev. Gardner C. Taylor, Pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Baton Rouge. Dr. Taylor is one of the Vice-Presidents of the SCHW Committee for Louisiana.

Short speeches of greeting were brought to the meeting by Doris Culver, member of the faculty of the Tulane University School of Social Work; Ernest Wright, President, the People's Defense League; John W. Weightman, President, Local 73, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers; Moses Turner, Jr., Local Chairman, International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers; and Mrs. Joseph Friend, honored social service leader.

The meeting hammered home hard the fact that Louisiana Senators Ellender and Overton played a major part in preventing the conclusive ouster of Bilbo from the Senate early in January. It passed three resolutions calling for an all-out fight against Talmadge Fascism in Georgia, intensification of the campaign to keep Bilbo out of the Senate, and warning to Ellender and Overton to stop betraying the will of their constitutents by serving as "defense attorneys for Fuehrer Bilbo."

Alabama and South Carolina Pledge Progress

The progressive South looks with hope to the administrations of two recently inaugurated governors, "Big Jim" Folsom of Alabama and J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. These men campaigned on liberal platforms, defeated reactionary opponents. Calling for the abolition of the poll tax in their states, they both apparently base their hopes for the future upon a free and widened electorate.

While the naked Fascism of Talmadge and the renewed campaign to seat Bilbo in the Senate provide Southern counterparts to the Republican anti-labor, pro-monopoly program in Washington, it is significant that a powerful progressive current in the South has carried into office men pledged to carry out democratic social and electoral programs.

In both cases—the fight against Fascism in Georgia and Mississippi and the fight for democratic advance in Alabama and South Carolina — the vigilance, unity and political initiative of the people will determine the result. In *The New York Times Magazine* of February 2, 1947, Ellis Arnall writes "Southern liberals will not only continue to fight, but to win their local battles with each passing year and each election."

These words express the faith of a man who, along with Claude Pepper of Florida, has become a symbol of Southern democratic determination. The people of the South will decide whether they, along with Folsom and Thurmond, are political "sports" or whether they are "an earnest of things to come."

Sermon on the Mount

When six-foot-eight-inch "Big Jim" Folsom, only 37 years old, took the oath of office in Montgomery January 20, the historic Jefferson Davis Bible was opened at the Sermon on the Mount. Folsom told the assembled multitude "I chose that portion because it embodies the principles of Christianity and will be the basic philosophy of my administration."

Behind lay one of the most unusual campaigns in Southern political history. Basing his hopes for office on "the common folks," Big Jim had toured his state with a hill billy band and a suds bucket and corn shock mop. He said he had the mop and it was up to the people to supply the suds to get rid of the "big mules" who have dominated the government. "Big mules" is the Alabama way of saying monopoly and plantation vested interests.

Born in rural Coffee County, the young insurance man won by an unprecedented majority in a fight in which he was supported by organized labor, the small farmers, the church leaders, professional people and little business men.

Huey Long is only one of the demagogues who come to mind to warn that a colorful and popularly appealing campaign does not necessarily produce a democratic administration. But Folsom has gone on record as definitely supporting measures calculated to bring sweeping social and political improvement in Alabama.

Developing Human Resources

"To me, a more democratic government means doing a better job in developing our human resources," Folsom said. "This means that your child is going to be given nine months of school, free textbooks and an opportunity for a college education. It means that our teachers will be well paid." He advocates an $1800 minimum salary for Alabama teachers.

Folsom stated that his "first official act will be to ask our attorney general to carry on the freight rate fight. Our plan is to join the State of Georgia in its suit which is now before the Supreme Court."

In this connection he also said, "We've got to fight monopoly, all kinds of monopoly. If we don't, our economic system will be choked to death."

FOLSOM OF ALABAMA

Too Much Poverty

"We've got too much poverty in Alabama," Folsom said in relation to the state's general economic development. "We've got too much disease. We've got too little education. The solution lies in better use of these hills of our these rivers, these trees, these veins of ore and coal. This is a challenge to the man who knows how to put money, natural resources and human resources together and make a good factory. The who can make good factories will be heroes in Alabama."

The Governor indicated that by "good factory" he means one in which wage standards and working conditions will be "as good as those for the same work in other states."

The Birmingham News staff writer Alyce Billings Walker, in her account of the inauguration, wrote, "Not since February 18, 1861, when 10,000 people saw Jefferson Davis ride in an open carriage drawn by six gray horses from the Exchange Hotel to the capitol, has there been an inauguration as colorful as the one planned for today." Folsom had invited all the people of the state to come to the inauguration, and more than 100,000 took him up on it. He held his reception in an airplane hangar.

At the end of his address, the young governor looked at the unprecedented crowd and said, "I want to be the best governor I can for you."

Major Progress for South Carolina

The inauguration crowd at Columbia, South Carolina January 22 was only 3,000 but Wayne Freeman in the *Greenville News* states that "the impressive ceremony was marked by fanfare said to be virtually unprecedented."

Governor J. Strom Thurmond is a very different kind of man from "Big Jim" Folsom. A teacher, lawyer, soldier and jurist, he conducted a much more conventional campaign. But it was clearly progressive in content and Thurmond outlined a program which, if carried to realization, will mark major steps forward for South Carolina. Many of the planks and emphases in Thurmond's program correspond closely to those in Folsom's.

Following are direct quotations from Thurmond's inaugural speech:

Looking Forward

"Today we in South Carolina are not looking at the past except for inspi-

n and guidance. Our faces are turned ward the dawn of that new day which confidently believe affords our state d our people the greatest opportunity r development and progress within the st hundred years.

"If the campaign last summer demonrated one thing, it was that our people e tired of ring rule. They want their vernment to be responsive to the will the people. It shall be my purpose carry out the mandate of the people.

"In preparing for the utilization of r opportunities in the post war era, t us keep before us the creed of good vernment which Thomas Jefferson ve us. 'A wise and frugal government, hich shall restrain men from injuring e another, which shall leave them herwise free to regulate their own rsuits of industry and improvement; d shall not take from labor the bread has earned. This is the sum of good vernment.'"

Election Laws

"Honest elections, expressing the will the people at the ballot box, are the undation of our representative form government. The time has come hen we should modernize our general ection laws, and thereby encourage r people to take more interest in such ections.

"Our present system has served its rpose and outlived its usefulness. We ould replace our present 10-year regtration of qualified voters with a sysm of permanent registration. We ould put into effect the Australian, secret-type ballot in general elecons.

"We should give those counties which ish to use voting machines the legal thority to do so. We should remove e poll tax as a voting prerequisite."

Taxes

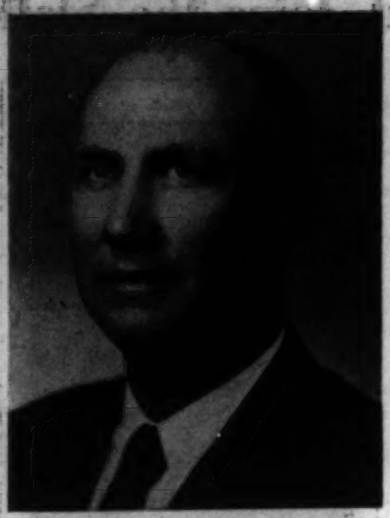
"It has been said that our taxes are t high, but that we have less with hich to pay them than we should, and r people feel their weight too heavily. he answer is to raise our economic vel."

Labor

"One of our needs is an 'occupational sease' law, as an amendment to the rkmen's compensation law, to afford r workers protection and the security fforded workers in other states by such ws.

"We need to strengthen our child la- r laws and those pertaining to the emoyment of women.

"We must make every effort to pro-



THURMOND OF SOUTH CAROLINA

vide productive employment, at wages and hours and under working conditions which make for health, decency and the welfare of our workers. Serious consideration should be given to the enactment of a minimum wage law."

Agriculture

"A sound state economy cannot be maintained without a healthy agricultural economy. If we are to raise our standard of living, we must encourage and assist our farmers to increase their farm income by the use of machinery and other expedients which will mean higher per capita production. Where this is impracticable, the farmers should be encouraged to make their lands yield an income by livestock and dairy farming or by growing forest products.

"The farmer is the backbone of our whole economic structure and creates most of our basic wealth."

Education

"Today we are facing a crisis in education that will have alarming consequences unless immediate steps are taken to secure and maintain competent teaching personnel. The shortage of teachers, evidenced throughout the nation, is felt in South Carolina to the extent that it constitutes a threat to the public welfare.

"I urge as a matter of first necessity that the salaries of teachers be materially increased."

Health

"One vital need of this state is a well-organized, long-range health program, to attain the highest possible level of mental, physical and social well-being of our people. It is high time that we immediately set up and carry out such a program. The public is entitled to it and the powers of government should be employed to provide it."

Public Welfare

"South Carolina has made great strides in the past few years in meeting economic needs of the family and in providing services for children through its assistance programs. The extent and adequacy, however, both of the assistance and social service programs, are far from sufficient to meet the needs and to provide services on a basis which gives a family security. Broadening of the Social Security Act and extension of the federal social insurance programs . . . should receive the attention of both the federal and state governments."

Women's Rights

"I favor equal rights for women in every respect. More women should serve on boards, commissions, and other positions of importance in the state government. I favor equal pay for equal work for women. I recommend that women be permitted to serve on juries in this state."

Conclusions

"We dare not falter. We must succeed. And we will succeed if we approach these tasks as a determined and united people, with our differences and doubts dispelled by the burning desire to serve our state and to work together for the common good."

Thus the Southern people are showing themselves increasingly capable of putting liberal men into their governors' mansions. Arnall of Georgia was never defeated by the people of Georgia. Unable to succeed himself in office because of a state constitutional provision, he backed Carmichael. Carmichael got the majority of votes in the state, but the late Gene Talmadge was elected on the basis of the archaic unit vote system, certainly no popular mandate.

The current wave of reaction in the South apparently represents not only greed, bigotry and lust for power. It represents panic at the rising tide of Southern democracy, the modern counterpart of the great Populist Movement. Folsom pointed the way toward relegating Talmadge-Bilbo Fascism to history when he said, in his inaugural address, "I am not afraid of too much democracy. I am afraid of what happens to people when they have too little democracy." We presume that democracy means all the people, white and Negro, in Alabama and South Carolina.

Edmonia W. Grant Joins the Staff

The administrative staff of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare was completed early in February by the addition of Mrs. Edmonia W. Grant of Nashville. Mrs. Grant and Frank C. Bancroft serve as associates to Administrator James A. Dombrowski.

Mrs. Grant arrived from Washington in time to attend the New Orleans Youth Council Town Meeting to voice "Support to Arnall Georgians and Opposition to Bilbo Louisianians." "This kind of meeting is truly expressive of the democratic sentiments of the majority of the Southern people," Mrs. Grant said as she settled down to work immediately at Conference Headquarters.

A sixth generation Tennessean, Mrs. Grant took her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Howard University, Washington, and her Master of Arts in Educational Sociology from Fisk. As a Rosenwald Fellow, she studied during 1941-42 at Teachers College, Columbia University, toward a Ph. D. in Adult Education. "There's no doubt that work with the Southern Conference for Human Welfare is service with one of the most important and effective adult education organizations in the Nation," Mrs. Grant stated recently in a press interview.

Mrs. Grant's daughter, Gloria, became a fourth generation Fisk graduate last spring when she took her B. A. degree at the age of 19. She is now studying for her M. A. in Sociology at Howard University.

Much of Mrs. Grant's work has been in social research, as a member of the staff of Dr. Charles S. Johnson, eminent sociologist and President of Fisk University. Mrs. Grant worked on studies of cotton and tobacco tenancy; on the study of Negro rural youth for the American Youth Commission, recorded in "Growing Up in the Black Belt;" and on the Carnegie Study of "The Negro in America," recorded in "Patterns of Negro Segregation." Material from these studies was used substantially in Gunnar Myrdal's "The American Dilemma."

Mrs. Grant is widely conversant with her new home, Louisiana, having travelled throughout the state in 1941 in connection with a study of Louisiana public schools.

During 1942, 1943 and 1944, Mrs. Grant served as Program Secretary of the Student Division of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association, guiding the programs of 600 College Y.W.C.A.'s on campuses in all 48 states.

Edmonia W. Grant

In September, 1944, Mrs. Grant returned to work with Dr. Johnson as Director of Education in the Race Relations Division of the American Missionary Association. She served in this capacity until November, 1946, when she was given three-month's leave of absence to work in Washington with the United States Office of Education on the National Project for the Adult Education of Negroes. This study produced materials for use in literacy classes, utilizing the findings of the Army and Navy, which developed methods whereby illiterate adults covered the first four grades in 12 weeks.

A member of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare since its founding in Birmingham in 1938, Mrs. Grant served as a Tennessee representative on its Board of Representatives from 1939 through 1941.

Upon assuming her new responsibility, Mrs. Grant said, "It is a great privilege to serve the freedom-loving people of the South as a staff member of the Southern Conference, under the leadership of such men as Frank Graham, Clark Foreman and James Dombrowski, who represent the true liberal Southern tradition, the tradition of Thomas Jefferson, Frederick Douglass, Claude Pepper and Ellis Arnall.

Talmadge Bill Hit By "Rebel" Widow

Elderly Woman Makes Appeal To Committee

ATLANTA, Ga. — (UP) — The widow of a famous general of the Confederacy urged the legislature Thursday to bury Gov. Herman Talmadge's bill to bar colored persons from voting "so deep it can never be resurrected."

Tiny, white-haired Mrs. James H. Longstreet, whose husband was one of Robert E. Lee's chief lieutenants, appeared at the chamber room where the Senate judiciary committee was holding public hearings on the white primary bill, and asked to be heard.

Cites Carver, Booker T.

She then read an impassioned speech asserting that "a race that can produce a George Washington Carver and a Booker T. Washington already has paid the price in service to their country of the highest privilege of American citizenship—which is the ballot," said Mrs. Longstreet.

Mrs. Longstreet has been prominent in southern affairs since her husband's death around the turn of the century. She refuses to tell her age but she was active enough in the last war to don overalls, live in a trailer and work at the Bell Bomber plant in Marietta, where she now resides.

She stole the show as the four-day hearings closed, with opponents of the measure having their second day before the committeemen. Mrs. Longstreet brought along a 20-minute speech but, told her time would be limited to 10 minutes, asked the chairman to notify her a minute before her time was up. He did so and she delivered her punch line:

"I implore you to turn the scorn of honest men aganist this infamous bill, repudiate it, bury it too deep for resurrection."

While leading up to her final plea, Mrs. Longstreet remarked that in the First World War, when she worked in the War Risks Bureau, she found "when Negroes were called to military service they came g l a d l y—they fought as bravely and died as gallantly as white men fought and died."

Other speakers against the Talmadge bill included Robert B. Hawkes, business agent for the CIO's National Maritime Union in Savannah, who earlier this week tried to get colored people admitted to the speaker's stand in the hearing. They were not admitted.

For the most enlightening short news story of 1947 we heartily endorse the above. It is a United Press dispatch clipped from "The Mobile Register" of February 7th.

"An Ambitious House Painter Some Ten Years Ago . . ."

Senator Glen H. Taylor, Idaho Democrat, filed Senate Resolution 1 before the 80th United States Congress January 3. On the basis of copious evidence presented by two Senate Committees, it called for barring Theodore G. Bilbo of Mississippi from the Senate pending final decision by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Following two days of filibustering by Louisiana Senators Ellender and Overton, and others, a "deal" was made between Republican Senator Robert Taft of Ohio (presumably the "prosecutor" of Bilbo) and his Southern team-mates. The "deal" was distinctly bi-partisan.

Bilbo personally visited Senator Barkley of Kentucky the morning of January 4th, in Washington, asking that decision on the issue be postponed. Barkley conveyed this message to the Senate saying that he had consulted Taft and "friends of the Senator-elect from Mississippi".

The issue was thus set aside pending Bilbo's complete recuperation from an operation (a period then estimated at approximately two months), "or until such time as the Senate itself may take action." Bilbo supporters are waging an incessant campaign for his seating. Progressives must lose no opportunity to press for his rejection.

Excerpts from Senator Taylor's speech in support of his resolution, as recorded in The Congressional Record, *follow:*

Mr. Secretary, I do not exaggerate when I say that at this moment the honor and prestige of the Senate hang in the balance. To millions of Americans who have not previously evinced an interest in politics, today's action will alone determine whether this body is worthy of respect as the highest legislative body of a free people, or whether the Code of the Cloakroom will prove to be a higher law than the Constitution of the United States.

In short, Mr. Secretary, today it is not only Mr. Bilbo who is on trial. Today it is the Senate itself which is on trial.

We, the Members of the Senate, are not only on trial collectively, we are on trial individually. For a statement was recently issued to the press asserting that if Mr. Bilbo were refused his seat, he would expose the foibles of other Members of the Senate.

Mr. Secretary, I for one do not fear that threat of retaliation. The sound of the rattling skeleton in the closet does not intimidate me. I am sure that it does not intimidate my colleagues.

Our duty is made all the more plain because we were served with advance warning of Mr. Bilbo's intention to subvert the electoral process. If we are to lend credence to reports appearing in the press at the time, he repeatedly declared his intent to keep qualified voters away from the polls.

This is from The Jackson (Miss.) Daily News of June 23, 1946:

LAUREL. — *Citizens of Mississippi were again called on here Saturday by Senator Theo. G. Bilbo "to resort to any means" to keep Negroes from the polls in the July 2 Democratic primary.*

"And if you don't know what that means, you are just not up on persuasive measures," said Senator Bilbo as he completed a week of stump speaking in south Mississippi.

The Special Committee Investigating the National Defense Program uses this language in summing up Bilbo's acts in the 1942 Democratic primary in Mississippi and since:

The evidence presented to this committee clearly indicates that Senator Bilbo improperly used his high office as United States Senator for his personal gain in his dealings with war contractors.

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

CLARK H. FOREMAN, *President*
TARLETON COLLIER, *Secretary*
J. DANIEL WEITZMAN, *Treasurer*

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI, *Administrator*

EDMONIA W. GRANT, *Associate Administrator*

FRANK C. BANCROFT, *Associate Administrator and Editor*

The evidence of the Special Committee Investigating the National Defense Program does not conclude with the Mississippi Democratic primary 4 years ago. Rather there is evidence submitted that he has continued such practices.

The committee considers Senator Bilbo's acceptance of expensive gifts and donations of personal property and the acceptance of improvements to real estate, provided by contractors who have profited out of their work for the Government in the war effort, to be an illegal practice in violation of existing Federal statutes.

There is no qualification in that statement which is the studied conclusion of a committee of the Senate. Let me repeat, the committee says flatly that Mr. Bilbo's actions are "an illegal practice in violation of existing Federal statutes."

Mr. Secretary, I have frequently been informed that the problem of race relations in the South is a highly complex one, which required patience and good will. I am willing to accept that advice. I am willing to move as slowly as necessary.

I ask only one thing: That we do move forward; that we do not turn back the clock. And I will vigorously resist any attempt to move in the opposite direction, the direction of ill will.

Mr. Bilbo has moved in that backward direction. He has toured the length and breadth of his State stirring up racial hatred, inciting white to hate black and causing black to hate white. To whites who are themselves poor, ill nourished, ill clothed, and ill educated, he does not offer prosperity, nourishment, clothing, food, and education. No; he offers to them the delicious sense of feeling superior to someone else, the cheap thrill of membership in a master race, the joy of kicking someone else around.

To those on the lowest rung of the ladder he does not offer a lift; he merely offers to create another rung, still lower, so that the progress of man will be a series of descending steps.

This is the same sort of cheap thrill that was peddled in Germany by an ambitious house painter some 10 years ago. We know that his doctrines and his methods brought no good to his people or the people of the world. We know that they never can, because they go directly counter to the teachings of brotherly love, which alone can save us all in this atomic age.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare Reports:

Economic Charter Planned

SCHW President Clark H. Foreman has announced, through a release issued by the SCHW Washington Committee, plans to draw up "an economic charter for the South" to be drafted by the Southern Conference Education Fund, of which Dr. Foreman is also President.

With the objective of bringing up to date the Report on Economic Conditions of the South made at the request of President Roosevelt in 1938, the study and charter will be "an exhaustive study of the South's present-day conditions and present-day needs," Dr. Foreman stated.

The founding session of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, meeting in Birmingham in November, 1938, based itself upon the Report to President Roosevelt. "It is fitting that we should re-examine the social, political, and economic conditions of the South at this time," Dr. Foreman said, "so that the forward-looking people of the South may work together with determination and direction."

North Carolina Lobby

The Committee for North Carolina delivered a telling blow early in February at "The Right to Work Bill" introduced into the State Legislature as H. B. 229. In a letter addressed to all state legislators, the Committee pointed out the relation between this open shop measure and the Christian American Association run by "Pass the Biscuits Pappy" O'Daniel and Vance Muse. This Fascist organization calls for anti-labor "action through state legislatures."

Calling attention to the fact that less than half the number of days in 1946 were lost in North Carolina owing to industrial disputes as compared with 1945, the Committee dubbed H. B. 229 "a bill designed to destroy labor organization." The Committee's open letter to Tar Heel legislators concludes: "We do not believe this undemocratic measure will get far in the progressive state of North Carolina. We believe it will be killed, and killed dead, as the comic strips say." The Committee offered the legislators any additionally needed "ammunition in this home front fight for democracy."

The Committee for North Carolina is also pushing a state minimum wage bill, health legislation, and a state wage and hour bill. Thus far, more than half the 14 points on the Committee's state legislative program have been introduced in the Assembly. Executive Secretary Mary Price is registered in Raleigh as a lobbyist on behalf of "the welfare of the people of North Carolina."

Chapter Notes: On February 5 **Asheville** presented author James Street as a speaker; **Greensboro** is concentrating on precinct work in connection with a special local election to supplement teachers' pay; **Durham** is making a special study of the State's election laws; **Raleigh** planned to welcome SCHW President Clark Foreman February 17 when he was scheduled to speak before the United Church's Institute on Religion; **Chapel Hill** heard author Herbert Aptheker speak February 6th on "The Negro in American History."

South Carolina Organizes

"Comes now the priceless privilege of blending our spirits with that of the immortal Franklin Delano Roosevelt by helping organize in South Carolina a state chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare," reads the call to an organizing meeting in Columbia set for February 19th. The call was issued by Mrs. Andrew W. Simkins, a member of the SCHW Board of Representatives.

SCHW President Clark H. Foreman and SCHW Administrator James A. Dombrowski were scheduled to meet with South Carolinians from all parts of the state.

South Carolina thus becomes the seventh Southern state to establish an active statewide SCHW Committee.

Virginia Fights Servitude

The Committee for Virginia continued to hammer away on its campaign to defeat open shop anti-labor legislation introduced in the special session of the State Legislature.

In a recent communication from the Committee to the Members of the Virginia General Assembly, it was charged that the two anti-labor bills recommended by Governor Tuck would:

1. Destroy the State's opportunity to develop a sane and constructive labor policy.

2. Undermine the development of free collective bargaining.

3. So restrict the right of labor and its organizations as to violate their constitutional guarantees.

4. Give the Executive Department, "which has demonstrated its lack of understanding of democratic labor-management relations, a charter to impose involuntary servitude and to imprison individuals practicing those rights that a modern democracy accords those who labor for a wage."

Mobile Chapter Meeting

SCHW Administrator James A. Dombrowski was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Mobile Chapter of the SCHW Committee for Alabama held February 6th at the Y. M. C. A., Dearborn and St. Michael Streets. The meeting was chaired by Miss Irma Appelby, retired General Secretary of the Mobile Y. W. C. A., who is chairman of the Chapter.

Resolutions were passed attacking the seating of Bilbo in the Senate and Herman Talmadge in the Georgia governor's chair, and support was expressed for Governor "Big Jim" Folsom's campaign to eliminate the poll tax in Alabama.

Frank Angelo, International Representative of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, told of his personal experience in "a campaign to sabotage registration via the slow-down method." After waiting more than two days in the registration line, he said, he was finally registered only because a personal friend in the registration setup happened to see him. Negroes are regularly placed at the end of the long lines, he attested.

Big Events Set in Gotham

Following on the heels of its Joe Louis Dinner and its benefit evening of "Finian's Rainbow," the New York City Committee has scheduled a number of house parties and outstanding public events.

Scheduled for February 28th is the "Lend a Hand to Dixieland" Festival to be chaired by Joe Louis. The 15th Regiment Armory in New York City, where it is to be held, has room for 10,000 SCHW friends to get together, watch a show of stars, and hear about the importance of Southern progressive development to the welfare of the Nation as a whole.

On March 20th Margaret Halsey, brilliant author of "Color Blind," will address a women's luncheon on behalf of the Southern Conference.

On Thomas Jefferson's Birthday,

April 13th, thousands of New Yorkers will attend the New York City Committee's Carnegie Hall show in honor of that great Southerner. Highlight of the occasion will be a dramatization of Jefferson's ideals in terms of present-day campaigns and experiences of SCHW members and staff. Already working on this unique and original drama are top craftsmen in the radio field and show business who predict a lively documentary on "The New South."

Oklahoma Attacks Bilbo

Participating in a panel discussion on "Bilbo: His Origin, Cause and Cure," two members of the SCHW Oklahoma City Chapter recently joined with other organizations in Oklahoma City in a meeting of 300 citizens to analyze and act on the Bilbo issue.

Sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the panel was composed of spokesmen for the American Veterans Committee, the CIO, the Democratic Party and SCHW, which was represented by Durward McDaniel, president of the Oklahoma City Chapter, and Kenneth Lowe, executive board member.

Among the actions taken was the instruction of a committee to inform Senator Elmer Thomas that his recent support of Bilbo's seating in the Senate is sharply reducing his support in his home state.

The Chapter also reports a recent ruling of the Oklahoma Attorney General depriving "The White Circle," an organization dedicated to the promotion of white supremacy, of a charter. This progressive decision was made on the basis that the organization seeks to "deny constitutional rights to minority groups."

TRENDS

Religion and Labor Conference

"New Freedom for the New South" was the theme of the Southern Religion and Labor Conference held in Atlanta February 4 and 5 under the auspices of the Southern Committee of the National Religion and Labor Foundation. Dr. Willard Uphaus is Conference Executive Secretary. The Conference was chaired by Dr. Alva W. Taylor, a member of the SCHW Board of Representatives.

In resolutions calling for action by religious and labor leaders the Conference:

1. Challenged Southern ministers, priests and rabbis to recognize their "duty to build churches and synagogues whose doors are open to all races and classes."

2. Urged Southern labor leaders "to educate the clergy and laity of the South about the aims and methods of the trade union movement."

3. Called upon both clergymen and labor leaders "to form, in every city and hamlet, Church-Labor groups to create a spirit of God-like fellowship between clergymen and labor leaders, and to launch specific action projects for the betterment of community life."

Among the participants in the Conference were Van A. Bittner, Director of the CIO Southern Organizing Drive; George Googe, Southern AFL Representative; Rabbi Isadore Barnett, Congregation Agudath Achim, Savannah, Ga.; Kenneth Douty, Georgia Regional Director, Textile Workers Union; Rev. Cleveland J. Bradner, Jr., Minister, West End Christian Church, Danville, Va.; Rev. A. S. Turnipseed, Minister, Dexter Avenue Methodist Church, Montgomery, Ala.; Rev. Vincent J. O'Connell, New Orleans, Chairman, Catholic Committee of the South; Paul L. Styles, Regional Director, NLRB, Atlanta; and Rev. William Holmes Borders, Pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church, Atlanta.

More Columbia Acquittals

NAACP attorneys have won "not guilty" verdicts for two more defendents in the Columbia, Tennessee case in which a brave Negro community stood up against vigilante terror, it was announced recently. The names of Robert Gentry and John McGivens were added to those of 23 defendants already cleared.

Commenting on these gains, NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White stated "Even the acquittal or dismissal of the charges against the remaining eight defendants, when and if that takes place, does not mean that the basis back of the Columbia incident is settled. We must constantly be on guard, and the NAACP pledges that it will do just that."

The principal fact behind the entire case is that Negroes are being tried for defending themselves, while the vigilante marauders are going scot free, including those responsible for the murder of two Negroes in jail. It is as if gallant members of the French Resistance Movement were being tried, and gradually "acquitted," while leading Nazi aggressors were busily preparing for the next assault.

Arkansas Primary Law

Early in February the Arkansas House of Representatives passed without debate a measure repealing the sep-

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